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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 18 November 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It protests against the fact that, according to the evening newspaper Kayhan in its issue for 13 October 1997, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has given the name Tunb to an Iranian naval pilot vessel and, according to the Iranian newspaper Abrar in its issue for 20 October 1997, it has given the name Abu Musa to an Iranian naval pontoon. This is to be regarded as imposing an unlawful fait accompli and as an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and to bring them under Iranian sovereignty by use of force.

In this connection, the United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over the islands in question. It once again affirms that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the islands, and it reserves all of its rights with regard thereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Note verbale dated 18 November 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

It would like to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the fact that, according to the evening newspaper Kayhan in its issue for 13 October 1997, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has given the name Tunb to an Iranian naval pilot vessel and, according to the Iranian newspaper Abrar in its issue for 20 October 1997, has given the name Abu Musa to an Iranian naval pontoon is to be regarded as imposing an unlawful fait accompli and as an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and to bring them under Iranian sovereignty by use of force.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates strongly protests to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against this unlawful action. It regards this and all previous measures taken by Iranian Governments on the three islands in question as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer any rights on the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the islands and only serve to further undermine confidence between the two countries.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over the islands in question. It once again affirms that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the islands, and it reserves all of its rights with regard thereto.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.